

**Congresswoman  
Louise M. Slaughter**



**Federal  
Student Aid  
Resource Guide**

*Congresswoman Slaughter is pleased to pass along this information which been compiled for your convenience from the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid websites and the Congressional Research Service.*

Please Visit Congresswoman Slaughter's website for [additional information](#)

[www.louise.house.gov](http://www.louise.house.gov) – “Serving You” – “Student Opportunities”

*Financial Aid for Students*

- The Basics, Getting Started
- Tax Incentives for Higher Education
- Student aid and where it comes from
- Targeted aid for special groups
- Repaying your loans

*Nomination to a United States Service Academy from Congresswoman Slaughter*

- Service Academies: (1)U.S. Naval Academy, (2)U.S. Military Academy, (3)U.S. Air Force Academy, or (4)U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
- Application and Process
- Nomination Interviews

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## About Federal Student Aid

Federal Student Aid, an office of the U.S. Department of Education, ensures that all eligible individuals can benefit from federally funded financial assistance for education beyond high school. Now more than ever, Americans need affordable, quality education opportunities to help make our economy strong and competitive again. The federal government consistently champions the promise of postsecondary education to all Americans—and its value to our society. Congresswoman Slaughter believes that it is essential to ensure equal access to quality education for all Americans. She is also committed to making higher education affordable for all families and individuals through tax credits for college expenses, tax deductions on interest on student loans, and tax-free college tuition "IRA" accounts.

Because of the high costs of college, about two-thirds of graduates take out loans with an average student debt of over \$23,000. This debt is particularly burdensome for graduates who choose to enter lower-paying public service careers, suffer setbacks such as unemployment or serious illness, or fail to complete their degree. Congresswoman Slaughter believes that every American should have access to a high-quality and affordable education, and was proud to support legislation such as the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) that will begin to reduce the crushing burden of student debt and teach our students the skills and knowledge we need in our workforce to innovate and compete globally.

Federal Student Aid plays a central and essential role in supporting postsecondary education by providing money for college to eligible students and families. Partnerships with postsecondary schools, financial institutions and others ensure the delivery of services that help students and families who are paying for college.

Today, Federal Student Aid performs a range of critical functions that include, among others:

- Educating students and families on the process of obtaining aid;
- Processing millions of student financial aid applications each year;
- Disbursing billions of dollars in aid funds to students through schools;
- Enforcing financial aid rules and regulations;
- Servicing millions of student loan accounts, and securing repayment from borrowers who have defaulted on their loans; and
- Operating information technology systems and tools that manage billions in student aid dollars.

This is a complex, multifaceted mission that calls on a range of staff skills and demands coordination by all levels of management. Consequently, Federal Student Aid, a Performance-Based Organization (PBO), emphasizes tangible results and efficient performance, as well as the continuous improvement of the processes and systems that support our mission.

## Title IV Programs

The federal student aid programs are authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended. Title IV grants, loans and work-study programs, Federal Student Aid ensures the accessibility, affordability and accountability of higher education to better prepare students and adults for employment and future learning. They include (1) federal grants, (2) loans and (3) work-study programs. Find a brief description of each of these federal financial aid programs below:

## **Federal Student Aid Grants**

### **Federal Pell Grants**

The most need-based of the student aid programs, this program provides grant aid to low- and middle-income undergraduate students. Awards vary depending on the cost of attendance and financial circumstances of students and their families.

### **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)**

Participating schools award FSEOG to undergraduate students with exceptional financial need, based on the availability of funds.

### **Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grants (TEACH)**

This program provides grant assistance to students who are completing or who plan to complete course work needed to begin a career in teaching. In exchange for the grant, a student must sign an Agreement to Serve as a full-time teacher under certain specific conditions.

### **Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) and Special LEAP (SLEAP) Grants**

These formula-based programs make federal funds available to states to assist them in providing student assistance programs for individuals with substantial financial need.

## **Federal Student Aid Loans**

### **Direct Loan Program**

These funds are lent directly to students for undergraduate and graduate studies, through participating postsecondary schools, with funds borrowed from the U.S. Treasury. Direct Loans include subsidized and unsubsidized loans, PLUS loans for parents and graduate or professional degree students, and consolidation loans, which allow borrowers to combine federal education loan debt.

Note: As a result of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, beginning July 1, 2010, federal student loans are no longer made by private lenders under the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program. Instead, all new Stafford, PLUS, and Consolidation loans come directly from the U.S. Department of Education under the Direct Loan Program.

### **Federal Perkins Loans**

These loans are made through participating schools to undergraduate, graduate and professional students. Federal Perkins Loans are offered to students demonstrating the greatest financial need. Awards are based on a student's need and a school's available funding.

## Federal Student Aid Work-Study

### Work Study

Work-study programs provide part-time employment for students while they are enrolled in school. Students are paid directly for their work and schools are responsible for administering the program. Award amount varies based on the student's needs and school's funding level.

## Federal Aid vs. Private Aid

Thinking about attending college? Will you need a loan? If so, think federal aid first! Federal loans usually offer borrowers lower interest rates and have more flexible repayment options than loans from banks or other private sources.

The following explains the differences between federal and private education loans, the various kinds of federal loans offered and the dollar amounts available. Included are details on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)—your starting point for obtaining financial assistance for college. *Think federal aid first!*

### Federal Aid First!

#### What is a federal student loan?

A federal student loan allows students and their parents to borrow money to help pay for college through loan programs supported by the federal government. They usually have low interest rates and offer attractive repayment terms, benefits and options. Generally, repayment of a federal loan does not begin until after the student leaves school. Federal student loans can be used to pay school expenses such as tuition and fees, room and board, books, supplies and transportation.

Federal student loans are delivered to students through the Direct Loan Program. Loan funds are provided to you through your school.

#### What is a private student loan?

A private student loan is a nonfederal loan issued by a lender such as a bank or credit union. Private student loans often have variable interest rates, require a credit check and do not provide the benefits of federal student loans.

#### Why are federal student loans a better option for paying for college?

Federal student loans offer borrowers many benefits not typically found in private loans. These include low fixed interest rates, income-based repayment plans, loan forgiveness and deferment (postponement) options, including deferment of loan payments when a student returns to school. For these reasons, students and parents should always exhaust federal student loan options before considering a private loan.

#### How do I get a federal student loan?

To get a federal student loan, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The easiest way to complete the FAFSA is online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). Here, you identify schools that you are interested in attending. When your FAFSA is processed, the schools you have identified will receive your information. The school will then tell you how much financial aid is available, including grants, scholarships, work opportunities and federal student loans. Should you choose a federal student loan, your school will provide you with instructions on next steps.

### **How much money can I borrow in federal student loans?**

Undergraduate student loan limits range from \$5,500 to \$12,500 per year depending on certain factors, including the student's year in college. Graduate students can borrow up to \$20,500 each year. Parents can also get federal student loans to help pay the remainder of college costs that are not covered by their children's other financial aid. These are called PLUS loans. In addition, graduate students may obtain PLUS loans to help pay for their own education.

### **Why should I complete a FAFSA when the private loan application process may be easier?**

While the application process may be easier in some instances, federal student loans usually have lower interest rates and better repayment terms and options than private student loans. Additionally, schools use the information provided on the FAFSA to determine eligibility for other types of financial aid provided by the federal government, from your state, or from the school itself. This aid can include grants, scholarships and work opportunities.

### **What kinds of federal student loans are available?**

**Stafford loans** are for undergraduate and graduate students. There are two types of Stafford loans: Subsidized and Unsubsidized.

1. **Subsidized Stafford loans** provide low interest rates and are available to students who demonstrate financial need based on income and other information provided on the FAFSA. A credit check is not required to receive these loans. The federal government pays the interest on these loans until six months after the student is no longer enrolled in school at least half-time.
2. **Unsubsidized Stafford loans** provide low interest rates and are available to all students regardless of financial need (although the FAFSA still must be filed). A credit check is not required to receive these loans. The student is responsible for the interest, which may be paid while the student is in school or accrued and then added to the principal balance when the student enters repayment, which occurs six months after the student is no longer enrolled in school at least half-time.

**Plus loans are low interest loans** that parents can obtain to help pay the cost of education for their children. In addition, graduate students may obtain PLUS loans to help pay for their own education. PLUS loans require a credit check and, in some instances, an eligible cosigner. Repayment of PLUS loans begins following the final disbursement for the year. Graduate students and parents of dependent students may be able to defer repayment of their PLUS loans until after the student is no longer enrolled in school at least half-time, although interest will continue to accrue.

**Consolidation loans** allow student or parent borrowers to combine multiple federal student loans into one loan with one monthly payment. A federal consolidation loan cannot include private loans. However, some private lenders may offer consolidation loans. Borrowers should be aware that they will lose their federal borrower benefits if they consolidate their federal student loan into a private consolidation loan. Borrowers should always exhaust federal student loan options first before considering a private consolidation loan.

### **Federal Student Loans...**

- Allow students and their parents to borrow money to help pay for college through programs supported by the federal government.
- Offer lower interest rates and better repayment benefits and options than private student loans.
- Are available to students and parents that need help paying for college – in many cases, regardless of income level or credit history.

# ✓ College Preparation Checklist

## Every Year in High School

### Students

#### To Do:

- ✓ Work with one of your parents to update your information in *FAFSA4caster* at [www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov), and continue to save for college.
- ✓ Take challenging classes in core academic subjects. Most colleges require 4 years of English, at least 3 years of social studies (history, civics, geography, economics, etc.), 3 years of mathematics, and 3 years of science, and many require 2 years of a foreign language. Round out your course load with classes in computer science and the arts.
- ✓ Stay involved in school- or community-based activities that interest you or let you explore career interests. Consider working or volunteering. Remember—it's quality (not quantity) that counts.
- ✓ Talk to your school counselor and other mentors about education after high school. Your counselor can answer questions about what classes to take in high school, how to sign up for standardized tests, and where to get money for college.

### Parents

#### To Do:

- ✓ Continue to talk to your child about college plans as if he or she will definitely go to college.
- ✓ Keep an eye on your child's study habits and grades— stay involved.
- ✓ Encourage your child to take Advanced Placement or other challenging classes.
- ✓ Watch videos for parents on the “News Parents Can Use” page at [www.ed.gov/parents](http://www.ed.gov/parents).
- ✓ Add to your child's college savings account regularly.

## 9th Grade

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### Students

#### To Do:

- ✓ Review “Every Year in High School” of this checklist.
- ✓ Talk to your guidance counselor or teachers about Advanced Placement courses. Find out what courses are available, whether you are eligible, and how to enroll in them.
- ✓ Start planning for college and thinking about your career interests. At [www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/myfsa](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/myfsa) you can register with MyFSA and research your career and college options.
- ✓ Make a list of your awards, honors, paid or volunteer work, and extracurricular activities. Consider participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops, and camps with specialty focuses such as music, arts, and science.

### Parents

#### To Do:

- ✓ Review “Every Year in High School” of this checklist.
- ✓ Use the College Savings Calculator at [www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/myfsa](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/myfsa) to determine how much you should be saving to meet college expenses and to find tips on maximizing your savings efforts.
- ✓ Make sure you are fully aware of the provisions of any college savings accounts you have opened for your child.

## 10th Grade

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### Students

#### To Do:

- ✓ Review “Every Year in High School” of this checklist.
- ✓ Meet with your school counselor or mentor to discuss colleges and their requirements.
- ✓ Consider taking a practice Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) or the PLAN exam.
- ✓ Plan to use your summer wisely: Work, volunteer, or take a summer course (away or at a local college).
- ✓ Go to career information events to get a more detailed look at career options.
- ✓ Log on to your MyFSA account at [www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/myfsa](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/myfsa) and try the Career Finder, or look at your career search results again if you used the Career Finder last year (see 9th Grade). Then include the recommended majors from the search as you use the College Matching Wizard on the site to find schools that might be a good fit with your interests and goals.

### Parents

#### To Do:

- ✓ Review “Every Year in High School” of this checklist.
- ✓ Find out whether your child’s school has college nights or financial aid nights. Plan to attend those events with your child.
- ✓ Help your child develop independence by encouraging him or her to take responsibility for balancing homework with any other activities or a part-time job.
- ✓ Learn about the standardized tests your child will be taking during 10th through 12th grades: the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT Reasoning Test and SAT Subject Tests (see [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)), and/or the PLAN exam and the ACT (see [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)).
- ✓ Get a brief overview of financial aid from Financial Aid and Scholarships for College.

## 11th Grade

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### Students

#### To Do:

#### All Year

- ✓ Review “Every Year in High School” of this checklist.
- ✓ Explore careers and their earning potential in the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* at [www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco).
- ✓ Log on to your MyFSA account (see 9th Grade) at [www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/myfsa](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/myfsa) and look at the information for any colleges you saved if you completed the College Matching Wizard (see 10th Grade) in the past. Try the college search again if you’ve changed your mind about what you want from a school.
- ✓ Go to college fairs and college-preparation presentations by college representatives.

#### Fall

- ✓ Take the PSAT/NMSQT.\* You must take the test in 11th grade to qualify for scholarships and programs associated with the National Merit Scholarship Program.

#### Spring

- ✓ Register for and take exams for college admission.\* The tests that many colleges require are the SAT Reasoning Test, the SAT Subject Tests, and the ACT. Check with the colleges you are interested in to see what tests they require. \*REMEMBER: Register for all tests in advance. If you have difficulty paying a registration fee, see your school counselor about getting a fee waiver.
- ✓ Use [www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/scholarship](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/scholarship) to find scholarships for which you might want to apply. Some deadlines fall as early as the summer between 11th and 12th grades, so prepare now to submit applications soon.

## Parents

### To Do:

- ✓ Review “Every Year in High School” of this checklist.
- ✓ Take another look at your financial situation, and be sure you’re on the right track to pay for college.
- ✓ Talk to your child about the schools he or she is considering. Ask why those schools appeal to your child, and help him or her clarify goals and priorities.
- ✓ Attend college fairs with your child, but don’t take over the conversation with the college representative. Just listen, and let your child do the talking.
- ✓ Take your child to visit college campuses, preferably when classes are in session.

## Summer Before 12th Grade

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## Students

### To Do:

- ✓ Narrow down the list of colleges you are considering attending. If you can, visit the schools that interest you.
- ✓ Contact colleges to request information and applications for admission. Ask about financial aid, admission requirements, and deadlines.
- ✓ Decide whether you are going to apply under a particular college’s early decision or early action program. Be sure to learn about the program deadlines and requirements.
- ✓ Update your information in *FAFSA4caster* one last time at [www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov), and compare the results to the actual costs at colleges to which you will apply. To supplement any aid *FAFSA4caster* estimates you might receive, be sure to apply for scholarships. Your goal is to minimize the amount of loan funds you borrow.

## Parents

### To Do:

- ✓ Review your financial situation and make sure your child is looking into or already has applied for scholarships.
- ✓ Ask your employer whether scholarships are available for employees’ children.
- ✓ Find out whether your child has added any schools to his or her college wish list since the last time you visited colleges, and visit additional campuses if possible.

## 12th Grade

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## Students

### To Do:

#### All Year

- ✓ Review “Every Year in High School”.
- ✓ Work hard all year; second-semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility.
- ✓ Stay involved in after-school activities, and seek leadership roles if possible.

#### Fall

- ✓ Meet with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements.

- ✓ If you haven't done so already, register for and take such exams as the SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Tests, or ACT for college admission.\* Check with the colleges you are interested in to see what tests they require.
- ✓ Apply to the colleges you have chosen. Prepare your applications carefully. Follow the instructions, and **PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO DEADLINES!**
- ✓ Well before your application deadlines, ask your counselor and teachers to submit required documents (e.g., transcript, letters of recommendation) to the colleges to which you're applying.
- ✓ To prepare to apply for federal student aid, be sure to get a PIN at **www.pin.ed.gov** so that you can complete your application and access your information online. One of your parents also should get a PIN.

\* **REMEMBER:** Register for all tests in advance and be sure to give yourself time to prepare appropriately! If you have difficulty paying a registration fee, see your school counselor about getting a fee waiver.

### **Winter**

- ✓ Encourage your parent(s) to complete income tax forms early. If your parent(s) has (have) not completed their tax forms, you can provide estimated information on your federal student aid application, but remember to make any necessary changes later.
- ✓ As soon after Jan. 1 as possible, complete and submit your *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA), along with any other financial aid applications your school(s) of choice may require. You can complete the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or on paper, but completing the application online is faster and easier. You should submit your FAFSA by the earliest financial aid deadline of the schools to which you are applying, usually by early February. Refer to "FAFSA Filing Time" as you go through the application process.
- ✓ If you have questions about the federal student aid programs or need assistance with the application process, call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or the TTY for the hearing impaired, 1-800-730-8913.
- ✓ After you submit the FAFSA, you should receive your *Student Aid Report* (SAR) within three days to three weeks. Quickly make any necessary corrections and submit them to the FAFSA processor.
- ✓ Complete any last scholarship applications.

### **Spring**

- ✓ Visit colleges that have invited you to enroll.
- ✓ Review your college acceptances and compare the colleges' financial aid packages.
- ✓ Contact a school's financial aid office if you have questions about the aid that school has offered you. In fact, getting to know your financial aid staff early is a good idea no matter what—they can tell you about deadlines, other aid for which you might wish to apply, and important paperwork you might need to submit.
- ✓ When you decide which school you want to attend, notify that school of your commitment and submit any required financial deposit. Many schools require this notification and deposit by May 1.

## **Parents**

### **To Do:**

- ✓ Review "Every Year in High School".
- ✓ Work with your child on filling out the FAFSA

# Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

You must complete and submit the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) to apply for federal student aid—that’s government money for college or trade school. Financial aid offices use information from the FAFSA to determine whether you are eligible to receive federal grants, loans, or work-study funds. States and schools also use the information from the FAFSA to determine whether you qualify for additional aid. In fact, some schools won’t consider a student for the school’s merit scholarships until the student has submitted a FAFSA. So be sure to fill out a FAFSA even if you think you won’t qualify for federal aid.

## DEADLINES

If you want to be considered for aid from your state or college, you must meet its FAFSA deadline. **If you plan to go to college in the fall, your state financial aid deadline is probably going to be between March and May; and your college financial aid deadline could be as early as February.** The FAFSA site at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) lists many state deadlines and tells you how to find yours if it’s not listed.

For a college’s FAFSA deadline, check the school’s Web site or contact its financial aid office.

## To Do:

- Get free information and help from your school counselor, the financial aid office at the college or career school you plan to attend, or the U.S. Department of Education at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or **1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)**. Free help is available anytime during the application process. You should never have to pay for help.
- Get a personal identification number called a Federal Student Aid PIN at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). Your PIN lets you “sign” your online FAFSA, access and make corrections to your application information and more—so keep it safe!
- Collect the documents needed to apply, including income tax returns and W-2 forms (and other records of income). Tax return not completed at the time you apply? Estimate the tax information, apply, and finalize information later. The important thing is to meet the earliest deadline. Here are some items you might need:
  - Your Social Security number and your parents’ Social Security numbers if you are providing parent information.
  - Your Alien Registration Number if you are not a U.S. citizen.
  - Federal tax information or tax returns, including W-2 information, for yourself, for your spouse if you are married, and for your parents if you are providing parent information, using income records for the year prior to the academic year for which you are applying.
  - Information on savings, investments, and business assets for yourself (and for your parents if you are providing parent information).
- Submit the FAFSA in time to meet school and state aid deadlines. Here are the ways you can complete the FAFSA:
  1. Apply online (the fastest and easiest way) by going to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).
  2. Download a PDF version of the FAFSA ([www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)) Fill out the PDF and mail it to the address on the form.
  3. Ask the financial aid staff at the college you plan to attend whether you may fill out the FAFSA with their help and have them submit it for you.
  4. Call **1-800-4-FED-AID** and request a paper FAFSA

- Review your *Student Aid Report* (SAR)—the result of your FAFSA. You will receive your SAR by e-mail or by mail. If necessary, make changes or corrections and submit your SAR for reprocessing. Your complete, correct SAR will contain your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)—the number used to determine your federal student aid eligibility. If you do not receive your SAR within three weeks of submitting your FAFSA, go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and select "Check Status of a Submitted FAFSA;" or you may call **1-800-4-FED-AID**.
- Your school might request additional information from you. Be sure to respond by any deadlines, or you might not receive federal student aid.
  - All applicants: Contact the financial aid office if you have any questions about the aid being offered.
  - First-time applicants: Review award letters from schools to compare amounts and types of aid being offered. Decide which school to attend based on a combination of (a) how well the school suits your needs and (b) its affordability after all aid is taken into account.
  - Keep in touch with the school you've chosen to find out when tuition and fees are due, whether your financial aid will cover those expenses completely, and how much (if any) extra financial aid will come directly to you once your tuition and fees are paid.
- Pay special attention to letters or e-mails from schools, and contact the financial aid office if you do not understand what the school is offering you.
- Follow all directions on the FAFSA and on any communications from your school.

## Parents

### To Do:

- Get your own Federal Student Aid PIN at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). Your PIN will act as your electronic signature on your child's online FAFSA.
- File taxes as early as possible, but don't delay the FAFSA due to your taxes not being done. It's okay to estimate your financial information on the FAFSA; you just need to finalize it later.
- Complete the "Students: To Do" list above with your child. If possible, file the FAFSA online—it's much faster and easier, and your information is safe because it's encrypted (i.e., we use a mathematical formula to scramble the data).
- Examine the bill from the school your child chooses and make sure you understand all the fees and how they will be paid (e.g., through scholarships, student loans, etc.).

*The following identifies various sources for planning and acquiring funds to attend college. These resources may be available through libraries, high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices, and the Web.*

*Students themselves are often in the best position to determine which programs best meet their needs.*

## Federal Government Resources

The following information includes general sources on federal student aid (FSA) programs, and on federal departments and agencies' scholarships, grants, fellowships, internships, and cooperative education programs. Federal health references are in the "Other Specialized Aid" section of this report. Additionally, individual federal departments and agencies should be consulted for available programs for their employees or participants in internships, fellowships, or other educational programs that include the repayment, forgiveness, decrease, or discharge of incurred educational financial debt.

### **U.S. Department of Education (ED): Students.gov**

<http://www.students.gov/STUGOVWebApp/Public>

One-stop website designed for students and their families to assist the transition to life beyond high school by providing information and resources on planning and paying for postsecondary education, career planning, campus life, and online study assistance.

### **U.S. Department of Education: Student Financial Assistance**

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/index.jsp> and

<http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov/students.html>

General information on the major federal student aid programs, including grants, loans, work-study assistance, and tax credits. Describes loan deferment, cancellation, and consolidation, and dealing with loans that are in default. An individual who seeks to obtain FSA is to complete the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA). The site includes an electronic FAFSA format. Students can use the Financial Aid and Scholarship Wizard Website that enables the student to search for scholarships by keyword and the Scholarship matching wizard to create an account to save individualized scholarship, grant, and loan searches.

### **U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Labor: Opportunity.gov**

<http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov/opportunity/index.html>

Provides educational opportunities information for unemployed workers.

### **U.S. Office of Personnel Management: e-Scholar**

<http://www.usajobs.gov/StudentJobs/AdditionalOpportunitiesForStudents.asp>

Provides information on educational opportunities offered by federal departments and agencies, including scholarships, grants, fellowships, internships, and cooperative education programs.

## Planning for College

Center for Student Opportunity (CSO). *2011 College Access and Opportunity Guide*. Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks, Inc., 2010.

A one-stop resource for high school students from nontraditional backgrounds (e.g., first-generation, low-income, and minority students) that provides general advice on preparing for college (and paying for it), one-page reviews of programs (e.g., individual college outreach efforts, scholarship and financial aid opportunities, and support and retention services for targeted students) available at 284 college and universities (organized by state), advice from college students and other experts, and en Español también. The CSO provides a free companion activities guide, *Guide to the Guide* at <http://csopportunity.org/media/File/G2G.pdf>. CSO's Opportunity Scholars program at <http://csopportunity.org/ss/oppscholars.aspx> assists, free of charge, qualified first-generation, low-income and minority college-bound students through the process of identifying and enrolling in four-year, student-centered colleges and universities. A student must complete an individual profile to participate in the program. CSO's Opportunity Scholars program provides services through its CSO College Center at <http://www.csocollegecenter.org/>, monthly e-newsletters, blog, and CSO Opportunity Scholarships.

Coalition of America's Colleges and Universities. *College Is Possible*  
<http://www.collegeispossible.org/>

One-step resource guide for parents, students, and education professionals regarding preparing for, selecting, and paying for college. Includes overview of student aid programs, FAQs, and a glossary of terms.

College Board. *College Board Connect to College Success*  
<http://www.collegeboard.com/>

Complete guide to the college application process, including finding the right colleges and financial aid, preparing for the SAT and other tests, and exploring career options. Includes search function for undergraduate scholarships, loans, internships, and other financial aid programs from non-college sources.

College Board. *College Handbook 2011*. New York: College Board, 2010.

Compares costs and financial aid available at more than 3,800 two- and four-year colleges. The *College Handbook 2012* is to be released in June 2011.

College Board. *Getting Financial Aid 2011*. New York: College Board, 2010.

Resource guide for obtaining financial assistance; information about scholarships offered by colleges for academics, sports, artistic or musical talent, and ROTC; and a glossary of terms. The *Guide To Getting Financial Aid 2011* is to be released in July 2011.

College Board. *Meeting College Costs: What You Need to Know Before Your Child and Your Money Leave Home*. New York: College Board, 2010.

Step-by-step guide for parents to understanding and applying for financial aid.

College InSight (an initiative of the Institute for College Access & Success)

<http://college-insight.org/#>

A database on college affordability, diversity, and student success. Data can be accessed three ways: (1) Spotlight—by selecting a college, state, or type of school for a snapshot of key data and a relevant comparison (e.g., national or state statistics); (2) Topic—by selecting a topic and then selecting specific colleges, states, or school types for comparison; and (3) Explore All Data—by building individualized tables with any combination of colleges, variables, or years. College InSight is the successor to EconomicDiversity.org and provides data for almost 7,000 U.S. colleges and universities.

Foundation Center

<http://www.foundationcenter.org/>

The Foundation Center is the information gateway to the grant seeking process, private funding sources (including national, state, community, and corporate foundations), guidelines on writing a grant proposal, addresses of libraries in every state with grant reference collections, and links to other useful Internet websites. The center maintains a comprehensive database on foundation grantsmanship, publishes directories and guides, conducts research and publishes studies in the field, and offers a variety of training and educational seminars. The center's information is available in a variety of ways, including by subscription, by individual fee, and for free. General free information on the website includes the following: Guide to Funding Research at <http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/tutorials/gfr/index.html>; Foundation Finder (e.g., search for information about more than 70,000 private and community foundations) at <http://lnp.foundationcenter.org/finder.html>; Proposal Writing Short Course (free tutorial on developing a good grant proposal that is also available in Spanish, French, and other languages) at <http://fdncenter.org/learn/shortcourse/prop1.html>; and the Foundation Center Cooperating Collections (e.g., Libraries in every state providing the Foundation Directory Online and free funding information for grantseekers) at <http://foundationcenter.org/collections/>.

Although most foundation funding is awarded to nonprofit organizations, the following resources are some examples of the information available for the individual grantseeker pursuing financial support for their postsecondary educational studies and research: the center's Grant Space service's KnowledgeBase Resources for Individual Grantseekers: Students at <http://www.grantspace.org/Tools/Knowledge-Base/Individual-Grantseekers/Students> and free Online Training Course—Finding Foundation Support for Your Education at [http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/training/online/product\\_online\\_training.jhtml?id=prod2110005](http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/training/online/product_online_training.jhtml?id=prod2110005). See also the center's Foundation Grants to Individuals Online database at <http://foundationcenter.org/findfunders/fundingsources/gtio.html> that contains "over 8,500 foundation and public charity programs that fund students, artists, researchers, and other individual grantseekers. Low monthly, three-month, and yearly subscription rates."

Hewitt, Doug and Robin Hewitt. *Free College Resource Book: Inside Secrets From Two Parents Who Put Five Kids Through College for Next to Nothing*. Austin, TX: Prufrock Press, 2009.

Resource guide for parents and students that includes an overview of the federal financial aid system, options and references for college funding (e.g., scholarship searches, grants, savings plans), an explanation of the differences between financial aid options, information on the financial aid programs that provide the best benefits to students, and other sources of money for paying college tuition and fees, as well as a detailed section of websites and organizations willing to help students find financial assistance for college.

Hewitt, Doug and Robin Hewitt. *Get Into College in 3 Months or Less*. Austin, TX: Prufrock Press, 2010.

Assists families with last-minute strategies for finding pertinent information on universities online, discovering how to get financial aid quickly, creating templates for filling out applications, developing successful essays that can be used multiple times, and winning scholarships and grants.

Higgins, Tim. *Pay for College Without Sacrificing Your Retirement: A Guide to Your Financial Future*. Point Richmond, CA: Bay Tree Publishing, 2008.

Provides information on how to create an entire financial plan; details on financial aid and how to figure expected family contributions; academic, athletic and need-based scholarships; tax sheltered savings plans such as 529s; the use of business assets; loans; home equity; retirement savings; potential help from grandparents; and how to choose the best college for the money.

Hurley, Joseph F. *Savingforcollege.com's Family Guide to College Savings: 2011-2012*. Palm Beach, FL: Bankrate, Inc., 2011. <http://www.savingforcollege.com/>

Comprehensive guide to 529 plans (Qualified Tuition Programs) and other college savings strategies. Includes state-by-state comparisons of all 529 programs. The savingforcollege.com Website is an interactive guide.

Lipphardt, Debra. *The Scholarship & Financial Aid Solution: How to Go to College for Next to Nothing with Short Cuts, Tricks, and Tips from Start to Finish*. Ocala, FL: Atlantic Publishing Company, 2008.

A guide for students, parents, and school personnel to assist students in finding and obtaining a variety of scholarships, including those based on academics, awards, honors, leadership, test scores, extracurricular activities, majors, community service, volunteer work, essays, financial aid, and minority status. Also provides information on how to recognize and avoid scholarship scams, create a resume, get letters of recommendation, interview with scholarship committees, and how to prepare for a student interview.

Mapping Your Future

<http://www.mappingyourfuture.org/>

Sponsored by a group of guaranty agencies who participate in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFEL), this site covers selecting a school and planning a career and includes a step-by-step guide to paying for school.

National Association for College Admission Counseling

<http://www.nacacnet.org>

The website and staff serve as a **great resource** to both parents and students in the planning stages of college and/or university admission. The most helpful section is the Student & Parents Section.

O'Phelan, Ann Marie. *How to Go to College on a Shoestring: The Insider's Guide to Grants, Scholarships, Cheap Books, Fellowships, and Other Financial Aid Secrets*. Ocala, FL: Atlantic Publishing Company, 2008.

Guide provides individual case studies giving tips on the application process, paying for college, living cheaply while in college, working while in college, and preparing for after college.

O'Shaughnessy, Lynn. *The College Solution: A Guide for Everyone Looking for the Right School at the Right Price*. Saddle River, NJ: FT Press, 2008.

Guide provides information on how colleges actually parcel out financial aid, strategies for "average" and "excelled" students to maximize their financial aid and pay less than the "sticker price" for a private school education for the cost of an in-state public college. The author also has a workbook, *Shrinking the Cost of College: 152 Ways to Shrink the Price of a Bachelor's Degree*, available at her The College Solution Blog at <http://www.thecollegesolution.com/>. She also writes a college blog for *US News & World Report* at [http://www.usnews.com/topics/author/lynn\\_oshaghnessy](http://www.usnews.com/topics/author/lynn_oshaghnessy) and for *CBS MoneyWatch* at <http://moneywatch.bnet.com/spending/blog/college-solution/>.

Peterson's. Peterson's Planner  
<http://www.petersons.com/>

Internet resource guide for parents and students (including international students) regarding preparing for, selecting, and paying for undergraduate, graduate, and online and continuing education.

Peterson's. *Teens' Guide to College & Career*. Princeton, NJ: Peterson's, August 2011.

Guide provides information and advice about college, financial aid, entering the military, vocational training, choosing a career, and entering the workforce. Includes tips on interviews, resumes, and cover letters

Princeton Review. *Paying for College Without Going Broke, 2011*. New York: Princeton Review Publishing, 2010.

Features instructions for the most commonly used need-analysis forms, long-term strategies for paying for college, and short-term strategies for receiving more financial aid.

Princeton Review  
<http://www.princetonreview.com/home.asp>

Internet resource guide for students for schools and careers, information on postsecondary standardized exams and improving one's scores, and scholarship and financial aid information. Free registration required.

Sandler, Corey. *Cut College Costs Now! Surefire Ways to Save Thousands of Dollars*. Avon, MA: Adams Media Corporation, 2008 (this year is available in an electronic version).

Information from college administrators and financial planners on ways to manage spending, apply for financial aid, and increase eligibility for federal, state, and private funding. Also provided are planning strategies for structuring finances before college application - - as well as how to restructure investments once the college bills start to arrive.

Schlachter, Gail. *Paying for College (Straight Talk on Paying for College)*. New York, NY: Kaplan Publishing, 2009.

Assists families with calculating college costs, tapping into student aid resources, evaluating financial aid packages, uncovering hidden deals, and meeting outstanding expenses.

Stewart, Carol H. *Looking for Scholarships: A 6-Step System for Creating Financial Aid for Opportunities*. Bangor, ME: Booklocker.com, Incorporated, 2010.

A guide for college students on how to create goals and develop strategic plans for obtaining financial aid.

Tanabe, Gen and Kelly Y. Tanabe. *Sallie Mae How to Pay for College: A Practical Guide for Families*. Los Altos, CA: SuperCollege, LLC, 2008.

Parental guide to financial aid (scholarships, student loans, and work-study programs). Guide provides tips, strategies, and advice to help all families create a plan to pay for college.

## General Directories

Bissonnette, Zac and Andrew Tobias. *Debt-Free U: How I Paid for an Outstanding College Education Without Loans, Scholarships, or Mooching off My Parents*. Portfolio Trade, 2010.

This is a college guide, written by a senior attending the University of Massachusetts, on how to pay for college without taking out loans. The author advocates that students should bear the brunt of paying for their educations by working while in college and during breaks; attending community college for two years before transferring to a four-year college or university as a cost-cutting strategy; and advocates attending reasonably priced state schools.

Cassidy, Daniel J. *The Scholarship Book 13<sup>th</sup> Edition: The Complete Guide to Private-Sector Scholarships, Fellowships, Grants, and Loans for the Undergraduate*. New York: Prentice Hall Press, 2008.

Guide to 4,000 private sector sources for scholarships, grants, and loans, including corporations, unions, trust funds, religious and fraternal organizations, and private philanthropists.

College Board. *Scholarship Handbook, 2011*. New York: College Board, 2010.

List of more than 2,100 scholarships, internships, and loan programs offered to undergraduates nationwide by foundations, charitable organizations, and state and federal government agencies. *Scholarship Handbook, 2012* is to be released in July 2011.

Danzig, Sheila and William Danzig, Dawn Sullivan, and Thomas Mains. *The Big Book Of College Scholarship And Financial Aid Information*. Sunrise, FL: BG Publishing International (BGPI), 2010.

Provides lists of and how to locate federal, state or private grants, scholarships, and other financial aid. Includes some references for employer paid on-line learning.

*Grants Register 2011: The Complete Guide to Postgraduate Funding Worldwide*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

Comprehensive survey of non-refundable awards for postgraduate, professional, and advanced vocational training throughout the world. Awards are indexed by subject and subdivided into eligibility by nationality. *Grants Register 2012: The Complete Guide to Postgraduate Funding Worldwide* is to be available August 2011.

*Kaplan Scholarships 2011: Billions of Dollars in Free Money for College*. New York, NY: Kaplan Publishing, 2010.

Covers only portable undergraduate scholarships worth at least \$1,000. *Kaplan Scholarships 2012* is to be available in August 2011.

KMS Publishing. *Applying For And Getting Scholarships: Tips On Choosing The Right Program, The Application Process And Getting Approved For Financial Aid*. KMS Publishing.com, 2010.

A guide to how to make a scholarship application stand out from other applications. Provides tips on things to consider before applying, preparations for the application process, and what to do when the scholarship has been obtained from scholarship winners.

Peterson's. *The Best Scholarships for the Best Students*. Princeton, NJ: Peterson's, 2010.

Resource for students applying for nationally prestigious scholarships, internships, and experience-based programs.

Peterson's. *How to Get Money for College, 2011: Financing Your Future Beyond Federal Aid (Formerly College Money Handbook)*. Princeton, NJ: Peterson's, 2010.

Profiles of the costs and financial aid programs of more than 2,100 four-year colleges and universities in the United States by state in an easy-to-use comparison chart. Includes directory of need-based and non-need gift aid, loans, work-study, athletic awards, and more. Indexes for non-need scholarships, athletic grants, ROTC programs, tuition waivers, and alternative tuition payment plans, along with listings of state scholarship and grant programs. *How to Get Money for College, 2012* is to be available in August 2011.

Peterson's. *Scholarships, Grants, and Prizes, 2011*. Princeton, NJ: Peterson's, 2010.

List of more than 1.6 million awards available from private sources, including foundations, corporations, and religious and civic organizations. Awards are listed by academic/career area; indexing includes by talent, academic performance, ethnic heritage, military service, and employment experience. *Scholarships, Grants, and Prizes, 2011* is to be available in July 2011.

Schlachter, Gail, and R. David Weber. *College Student's Guide to Merit and Other No-Need Funding, 2008-2010*. El Dorado Hills, CA: Reference Service Press, 2007.

Profiles of more than 1,200 different merit and no-need based funding opportunities for currently enrolled, continuing, and returning college students in any subject area and at any type of postsecondary institution. Programs are listed by discipline, specific subject, sponsoring organization, program title, where student lives, where school is located, and deadline date.

Schlachter, Gail Ann, and R. David Weber. *Graduate Funding Set, 2010-2012*. El Dorado Hills, CA: Reference Service Press, 2010.

Five-volume set covering graduate funding sources for students in the arts and humanities, biological sciences, health sciences, physical and earth sciences, or social and behavioral sciences disciplines. Each volume in the set is available separately.

Schlachter, Gail, and R. David Weber. *High School Senior's Guide to Merit and Other No-Need Funding 2008-2010*. El Dorado Hills, CA: Reference Service Press, 2007.

Profiles of more than 1,100 different merit and no-need based funding opportunities for high school seniors interested in going to college. Programs are listed by discipline, specific subject, sponsoring organization, program title, where student lives, where intended postsecondary school is located, and deadline date.

Schlachter, Gail Ann, and R. David Weber. *Kaplan Scholarships 2011*. El Dorado Hills, CA: Reference Service Press, 2010.

Profiles 3,000+ scholarships available for high school seniors and recent graduates, currently-enrolled college students, and those returning to college after a break.

Stack, Carol and Ruth Vedvik. *The Financial Aid Handbook: Getting the Education You Want for the Price You Can Afford*. Pompton Plains, NJ: Career Press, May 2011.

One-stop guide to selecting and paying for college. Provides information on federal, state, and private financial aid (includes loan information and how to manage student debt after graduation) and completing the application process (including completing the FAFSA and PROFILE); finding and winning four-year scholarships; predicting scholarship dollars with the Merit Aid Profile, or MAP; profiles of selected schools with exceptional merit aid; and how to negotiate with the financial aid office.

Stezala, Kimberly Ann. *Scholarships 101: The Real-World Guide to Getting Cash for College*. New York, NY: AMACOM (book publishing division of the American Management Association), 2008.

A guide for parents and their kids on how to approach the scholarship process, such as applying for those scholarships that are the best match for a student's skills, creating a stand-out scholarship applications, and finding hidden scholarships.

Tanabe, Gen and Kelly Y. Tanabe. *Get Free Cash for College: Secrets to Winning Scholarships*. Los Altos, CA: SuperCollege, LLC, 2010.

A manual to help parents, high school, college, adult, and graduate school students find and apply for scholarships, and negotiate with colleges for more financial aid. Includes examples of winning scholarship applications, essays, and interview questions and answers.

Tanabe, Gen and Kelly Y. Tanabe. *1001 Ways to Pay for College: Practical Strategies to Make Any College Affordable*. Los Altos, CA: SuperCollege, LLC, 2009.

A manual to help parents, high school, college, adult, and graduate school students find and win scholarships, negotiate with colleges for more financial aid, maximize assistance from state and federal governments, take advantage of educational tax breaks, and benefit from government-subsidized student loans. Includes real-life examples of creative strategies to find extra money for college, such as starting profitable dorm-room enterprises, trading tuition costs for volunteer service, and canceling debts with loan repayment programs.

Tanabe, Gen S., and Kelly Y. Tanabe. *The Ultimate Scholarship Book 2011: Billions of Dollars in Scholarships, Grants and Prizes*. Los Altos, CA: SuperCollege, LLC, 2010.

Guide to thousands of scholarships, grants, and prizes. This is a comprehensive directory that features awards indexed by, among other categories, career goal, major, academics, public service, talent, athletics,

religion, and ethnicity. The guide provides detailed information on application process, eligibility requirements, award amounts, and sponsor's contact addresses. *The Ultimate Scholarship Book 2012* is to be available in July 2011.

## Financial Aid Searchable Databases

The following websites allow students (usually after completing a free registration process) to conduct and save general and individualized scholarship, grant, and loan searches.

Adventures in Education (AIE)

<http://www.aie.org/>

Database of more than 2,300 funding sources, including scholarships, internships, grants, and loans.

College Board. Scholarship Search

[http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch\\_ss/welcome.jsp](http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_ss/welcome.jsp)

Database of more than 2,300 funding sources, including scholarships, internships, grants, and loans.

College Scholarships.org

<http://www.collegescholarships.org/>

Database of scholarships, grants, and loans. No registration required. Includes a financial aid blog.

FastAid Scholarship Search

<http://www.fastaid.com/>

A free searchable scholarship database. Registration is required.

FastWeb, Inc. FastWeb

<http://fastweb.monster.com/>

Provides college and scholarship search capabilities, and general financial aid resources, including budgeting calculators (e.g., College Cost Projector, Education Loan Payments Calculator, and College Savings Plan Calculator). Free registration is required for scholarship search. The individual scholarship search matches students with eligibility requirements for 1.3 million scholarships from around the country based on profile data entered by the student.

FindTuition.com

<http://www.findtuition.com/>

A free database of over 1.7 million scholarships and information on financial aid programs. Registration is required. Includes a financial aid blog.

FinAid! The SmartStudent Guide to Financial Aid

<http://www.finaid.org>

Comprehensive website listing federal, state, and private loans, scholarships, military aid, student profile-based aid, and aid for graduate and professional school. The site includes financial aid forms and calculators, FAQs about financial aid, and an e-mail link for personalized help. As an example, students can search the website using descriptive terms (e.g., "adult" or "female") to locate relevant information on sources of financial aid (e.g., overviews or list of books on topic areas such as FinAid's *Financial Aid for Older and Nontraditional Student*).

Michigan State University. Grants for Individuals  
<http://staff.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/3subject.htm>

Sponsored by the Michigan State University Libraries, this site indexes financial aid by academic level, population group, and academic subject.

Peterson's. Scholarships, Loans, Financial Aid & the FAFSA  
<http://www.petersons.com/college-search/scholarships.aspx>

Details on scholarship programs in the United States and Canada and profiles of state-sponsored scholarship and college-based awards programs. Free registration is required for scholarship search.

Princeton Review. Scholarships and Aid  
<http://www.princetonreview.com/scholarships-financial-aid.aspx>

Database of over 230,000 scholarship programs. Free registration required. Created in partnership with FindTuition.com (a fee subscription service).

Sallie Mae (Student Loan Marketing Association). College Answer: The Planning for College Destination  
<http://www.collegeanswer.com/index.jsp>

Sallie Mae is the nation's largest provider of education loans, primarily through the federally guaranteed Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFEL). This comprehensive website covers all stages of preparing for and financing a college education and includes a database of more than 2.4 million scholarships. Free registration is required for scholarship search.

Supercollege.com. Find Free Cash For College  
<http://www.supercollege.com/index.cfm>

Database of over 1,000 scholarship programs for high school, college, graduate and adult students. Free registration required.

## **International**

Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). CIEE Scholarships  
<http://www.ciee.org/study/scholarships.aspx>

Information on scholarships offered directly by CIEE and links to financial aid offered through other sources, including the International Student Loan Program, Rotary International, and the National Security Education Program.

Institute for International Education (IIE)

<http://www.iie.org>

International exchange and training programs around the world administered by the Institute for International Education, including the Fulbright Program.

Kantrowitz, Mark. *eduPASS! The SmartStudent Guide to Studying in the USA*

<http://www.edupass.org/>

Resources for foreign students who wish to study in the United States, including a free scholarship search service and information on financing college, passports and visas, English as a second language, and the college admission process.

Schlachter, Gail Ann, and R. David Weber. *Financial Aid for Research and Creative Activities Abroad, 2008-2010*. El Dorado Hills, CA: Reference Service Press, 2008.

Lists 1,100 funding opportunities for every major subject area for high school students through postdoctorates and professionals for most regions of the world from more than 500 different private and public agencies and organizations.

Schlachter, Gail Ann, and R. David Weber. *Financial Aid for Study and Training Abroad, 2008-2010*. El Dorado Hills, CA: Reference Service Press, 2008

Financial aid programs for U.S. citizens for study and training abroad at all levels: high school, undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral, and professional.

## Disabled Students

George Washington University. HEATH Resource Center.

<http://www.heath.gwu.edu/>

Summary guides to financial aid process and particular issues of disabled students. See, especially, *Financial Aid, Scholarships, and Internships* at <http://www.heath.gwu.edu/resources/links/financial-aid-scholarships-and-internships/> and *Postsecondary Education For Students With Intellectual Disabilities* at [http://www.heath.gwu.edu/assets/50/pse\\_id\\_final\\_edition.pdf](http://www.heath.gwu.edu/assets/50/pse_id_final_edition.pdf). This website also includes *Financial Aid and College: An Overview for Students with Disabilities* (an excerpt from an earlier publication, *Creating Options: Financial Aid for Students with Disabilities*), available at [http://www.heath.gwu.edu/assets/19/financial\\_aid\\_excerpt.pdf](http://www.heath.gwu.edu/assets/19/financial_aid_excerpt.pdf).

Schlachter, Gail Ann, and R. David Weber. *Financial Aid for the Disabled and Their Families, 2010-2012*. El Dorado Hills, CA: Reference Service Press, 2010.

List of scholarships, fellowships, grants, loans, grants-in-aid, awards, and internships designed primarily or exclusively for persons with disabilities and members of their families. Includes information on state financial aid, loans, and vocational rehabilitation services.

Schlachter, Gail Ann, and R. David Weber. *Funding for Persons with Visual Impairments: Large Print Edition, 2011*. El Dorado Hills, CA: Reference Service Press, 2011.

List of more than 300 scholarships, fellowships, loans, grants-in-aid, awards, and internships (with offers of assistance that are \$500 or more) set aside just for persons with visual impairments (from high school seniors through professionals and others). Includes information arranged by program type, alphabetically by program title, and indexed by residency requirements. This directory is published in 19-point Helvetic Bold print.

## Women and Minority Students

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Foundation. *Annual Women's Scholarship Program*  
<http://www.aarpfoundationwlc.org/>

Created in 2007, the scholarship provides funds to women age 40+ who are seeking new job skills, training and educational opportunities to support themselves and their families. See *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)* for more information on this scholarship.

American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
<http://www.aauw.org/learn/>

The AAUW Local Scholarships and Awards Website is available at <http://www.aauw.org/learn/awards/index.cfm> and provides the AAUW Branch and State Local Scholarship Clearinghouse Program, a centralized, standardized, online undergraduate scholarship application posting and processing initiative, and AAUW Awards. The AAUW Fellowships and Grants Website is available at [http://www.aauw.org/learn/fellows\\_directory/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/learn/fellows_directory/index.cfm) and provides, among other funding resources, Career Development Grants for women with bachelor's degrees who are trying to advance their careers or change careers, and for mature women re-entering the work force.

BlackStudents.com: Scholarships and More for African American)  
BlackStudents.com

Provides scholarships, grants, fellowships, and internships for African-American students and students of color, college search capabilities, and general financial aid resources, including loan calculator The CEO of Diversity City Media - - the company that created the Website is author of the book, *The 2007-2009 African American Scholarship Guide for Students & Parents*. Phoenix, AZ: Amber Books, 2007.

Hispanic Scholarship Fund  
<http://www.hsf.net/>

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) offers scholarships to U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents of Hispanic heritage.

Jeannette Rankin Foundation Scholarships  
<http://www.rankinfoundation.org/students>

The Jeannette Rankin Foundation awards scholarships to low-income women who are U.S. citizens, ages 35 and older, enrolled in or accepted to a regionally-accredited school or a school accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS), and pursuing a technical or vocational education, an associate's degree, or a first bachelor's degree.

Latina College Dollars

<http://www.latinocollegedollars.org/>

The Tomás Rivera Policy Institute (TRPI), a nonprofit organization affiliated with the research unit of the University of Southern California School of Policy, Planning, and Development, and associated with the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy at Columbia University, provides an online searchable and downloadable scholarship directory for Latino students.

Peterson's. *Getting Money for College: Scholarships for African-American Students*. Princeton, NJ: Peterson's, 2003.

Guide to more than 17,000 scholarship awards geared specifically toward African-American students.

Peterson's. *Getting Money for College: Scholarships for Asian-American Students*. Princeton, NJ: Peterson's, 2003.

Guide to more than 17,000 scholarship awards geared specifically toward Asian-American students.

Sallie Mae Fund. Black College Dollars

[http://www.thesalliemaefund.org/smfnew/scholarship\\_directory/index.html](http://www.thesalliemaefund.org/smfnew/scholarship_directory/index.html)

A free 300+ scholarship search database, geared for African-American students. Searchable by GPA requirement, academic and career interest, and application deadline.

Schlachter, Gail Ann. *Directory of Financial Aids for Women, 2009-2011*. El Dorado Hills, CA: Reference Service Press, 2009.

List of scholarships, fellowships, loans, grants, awards, and internships designed primarily or exclusively for women. Includes information on state financial aid and guaranteed loan programs.

Schlachter, Gail Ann, and R. David Weber. *RSP Minority Funding Set, 2009-2011*. El Dorado Hills, CA: Reference Service Press, 2009.

Four-volume set covering scholarships, grants, fellowships, awards, loans, and prizes open specifically to African, Asian, Hispanic, and Native Americans. Each volume in the set can be purchased separately.

Talbots Women's Scholarship Fund

<http://www.talbots.com/scholarship>

The Talbots Charitable Foundation provides undergraduate scholarships for U.S. and Canadian women to pursue a college or vocational education later in life. Awards are based on need and previous achievements for women who earned their high school diploma or GED at least 10 years ago.

United Negro College Fund (UNCF). For Students

<http://www.uncf.org/ForStudents/index.asp>

Covers scholarships awarded by the UNCF and includes an additional scholarship database searchable by major, classification, achievement, and state.

## Veterans, Military Personnel, and Dependents

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Post-9/11 GI Bill and other programs - -Education Benefits  
<http://gibill.va.gov/post-911/>

Education benefits available to honorably discharged veterans, members of reserve elements of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, and members of the Army and the Air National Guard. Also covers educational assistance for survivors and dependents. Each year the VA publishes a booklet that provides a basic explanation of education benefits for veterans and their dependents The 2010 edition of VA's *Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents* is available at  
[http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book.asp](http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp)

American Legion Riders. Legacy Scholarship Fund  
<http://www.legion.org/riders/scholarship>

Scholarships are for dependents of a deceased parent, killed on or after September 11, 2001, while on active duty with the U.S. military or National Guard, or as a federalized reservist.

Military.com. Education  
<http://education.military.com/money-for-school/state-veteran-benefits>

Online general summary guide to state educational benefits for veterans and their dependents.

*Need a Lift? To Educational Opportunities, Careers, Loans, Scholarships, and Employment.* Indianapolis: American Legion, 2011.  
<http://www.needalift.org/> and <http://pdf.needalift.org/>

Focuses on federal, state, and private aid for veterans and their dependents. The 2011 Edition may also be searched online at <http://search.needalift.org/nal/>

Renza, David and Edmund Lizotte. *Military Education Benefits For College: A Comprehensive Guide for Military Members, Veterans, and Their Dependents.* El Dorado Hills, CA: Savas Beatie, 2010.

Step-by-step guide from the enrollment process, obtaining benefits, in college experience, and determining which type of degree is right for which type of job.

Schlachter, Gail Ann, and R. David Weber. *Financial Aid for Veterans, Military Personnel, and Their Dependents, 2010-2012.* El Dorado Hills, CA: Reference Service Press, 2010.

List of scholarships, fellowships, grants, loans, grants-in-aid, awards, and internships designed primarily or exclusively for veterans, military personnel, and their dependents. Includes information on federal, state, and private sources of financial aid. Indexed by program title, sponsoring organization, geographic coverage, subject field, and application deadline.

American Council on Education (ACE). Today's GI Bill  
<http://www.todaysgibill.org/>

Provides veterans information on the new education benefits available to them, the college selection process, and how to succeed in higher education. Created by ACE with support from the Lumina Foundation for Education.

## Other Specialized Aid

The following information includes examples of sources for specialized educational disciplines or students, such as adult, health, law, and sports.

### Aid for Adult Students

Back to College Resources for Reentry Students

<http://back2college.com/>

Provides a variety of tools, for adults returning to college, such as information on finding a degree program, the application process, financial aid resources, a free e-mail newsletter, and a moderated forum.

Siebert, Al and Mary Karr. *The Adult Student's Guide to Survival & Success*. Portland, OR: Practical Psychology Press, 2008.

A "how-to" manual for adults returning to school after years of absence. Provides information on obtaining financial aid and balancing the demands of work and school. The Practical Psychology Press's Adult Student.com <http://adultstudent.com> provides information for adult students and educators of adult college students. A moderated forum, Adult Student Connect!, for returning students and educators, is also available.

Tanabe, Gen S., and Kelly Y. Tanabe. *501 Ways for Adult Students to Pay for College*. Los Altos, CA: SuperCollege, LLC, 2009.

Financial aid (e.g., scholarships and loans) geared specifically to adult students, along with information on employer assistance programs, retraining programs, academic credit for life experiences, tax benefits, trade tuition costs for volunteer service, military education benefits, distance learning and part-time classes, and loan forgiveness programs.

Tanabe, Gen S., and Kelly Y. Tanabe. *Adult Students: A Painless Guide to Going Back to College*. Los Altos, CA: SuperCollege, LLC, 2009.

Guide geared specifically to adult students. Provides information on applications, financial aid, admission interviews, on-campus adult student specialists, options for distance learning, and new loan and scholarship opportunities.

## Aid for Athletes

Athletic Aid: Sports Scholarships, Financial Aid and College Search Resources for Students and Student Athletes.  
<http://www.athleticaid.com>

This website is for student athletes, their parents, and their coaches. Information is provided on college sports scholarships, the sports recruiting process, NCAA rules, student marketing tips, and how to evaluate college coaches and athletic programs. This Website is maintained by the author of the *Sports Scholarship Handbook* (2007 is the most current edition).

Brown, Scott. *The Student Athlete's Guide to Getting Recruited: How to Win Scholarships, Attract Colleges and Excel as an Athlete*. Los Altos, CA: SuperCollege, LLC, 2008.

This guide offers student athletes and their parents offers candid advice about a very competitive process that focuses as much on eligibility (academics) as on athletic prowess.

Grimes, Christine. *Student Athlete Handbook for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Guide To Recruiting, Scholarships, And Prepping For College*. 2008.

This handbook provides preparation for college, earning an athletic scholarship, and working with recruiters.

Hastings, Penny and Todd D. Caven. *How To Win A Sports Scholarship*. Santa Rosa, California, Redwood Creek Publishing, 2007.

This student-athlete guide contains information on over thirty sports (from archery and wrestling to football and baseball), and how to win a scholarship even if the student is not the star of the athletic team.

Krause, Chris and Jocelyn Baker. *Athletes Wanted: The Complete Game Plan for Maximizing Athletic Scholarship and Life Potential*. Salem, IL: Collegiate Athletic Educational Foundation provided by Quality Books Inc., 2009.

This guide provides information for students and parents on how to obtain college athletic financial aid and continued academic support for college athletes through graduation. Information is provided on the benefits of participating in college athletics, the history of college recruiting, what questions to ask potential coaches and how to communicate with coaches, and the process for negotiating the best scholarship and other financial aid package. The author is the founder and president of Chicago-based National Collegiate Scouting Association (NCSA). The NCSA Athletic Recruiting Website at <http://www.ncsasports.org/> provides for students using a parent's e-mail address the ability to create a free student athlete recruiting profile that is then shared in a network college coach network.

Mazzoni, Wayne. *Get Recruited: The Definitive Guide to Playing College Sports*. New York, NY: Mazz Marketing Inc., 2009.

Details on camps, showcases, tournaments, videos, and a variety of other tips that are part the recruiting process, and some financial-aid resources.

Nitardy, Nancy. *Get Paid to Play: Every Student Athlete's Guide to Over \$1 Million in College Scholarships*. New York, NY: Kaplan Publishing, 2007.

A list of "portable" athletic scholarships (e.g., not for a particular institution but can be used at any number of academic institutions). The book includes where to get an application, eligibility requirements, money awarded, duration of the award, number of scholarships awarded, deadline date, and contact information (including websites). The book can be searched by browsing the scholarship listings under the two available categories, "Any Sport" or by "Specific Sports;" or by searching the index by the name of the sport, the residency requirements, where one wants to go to school, and organization sponsoring the scholarship. Scholarship listings are by Reference Service Press.

Spainhour, Dan. *How To Get Your Child An Athletic Scholarship: The Parent's Ultimate Guide to Recruiting*. Winston-Salem, NC: Educational Coaching & Business Communications, 2008.

This parent guide includes recruiting tips, sample letters to coaches, and forms. The guide covers all sports.

Wheeler, Dion. *The Sports Scholarships Insider's Guide: Getting Money For College At Any Division*. Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks, 2009.

Details on the recruiting process, financial-aid opportunities, academic requirements, preparing credentials, school visits, and negotiating for financial assistance from NCAA Division I, II, III and NAIA institutions. Includes listings of sports for the various divisions, institution names, and Web addresses.

## **Aid for Students in Health Disciplines**

Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). Financing Your Medical Education  
<http://www.aamc.org/students/financing/start.htm>

Scholarships and government and private loans for pre-med and medical students and for residents.

Schlachter, Gail Ann, and R. David Weber. *How to Pay for Your Degree in Nursing, 2011-2013*. El Dorado Hills, CA: Reference Service Press, 2010.

Lists more than 800 funding programs set aside specifically for nursing students (from associate degree and diploma through doctorate) and nurses in the field (L.P.N.s, administration, anesthesiology, critical care, emergency, holistic health, long-term care, midwifery, nephrology, occupational health, oncology, operating room, orthopedic, pediatric, psychiatric, rehabilitative, school health) to support study, research, creative activities, future projects, travel conference attendance, professional development, and work experience. The book is organized by purpose (study/training or research/creative activities), program title, sponsor, residency, tenability, nursing specialty, and deadline date.

Schlachter, Gail Ann, and R. David Weber. *Money for Graduate Students in the Health Sciences, 2010-2012*. El Dorado Hills, CA: Reference Service Press, 2010.

The 2010-2012 edition lists more than 1,000 fellowships, grants, and awards set aside just for students interested in working on a master's, professional, or doctoral degree in a health-related field (e.g., dentistry, genetics, medicine, nursing, nutrition, pharmacology). The book is organized into two sections: *Money for Graduate Study or Research in the Health Sciences*. The *Research in the Health Sciences* section includes two further sub-categories: *Study and Training*, *Research and Creative Activities* and *Indexes*. The *Study and Training* describes 767 graduate-level fellowships and other funding opportunities that support structured and unstructured study or training in the health sciences such as formal academic classes, courses of study, research training,

degree-granting programs, and other educational activities. The *Research and Creative Activities* describes 274 grants and awards that support graduate-level research and creative writing in the health sciences. The *Indexes* includes five ways of accessing the study, training, research, and creative activities funding opportunities: by sponsoring organization, by residency, by tenability, by subject, and by calendar.

U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Student Assistance Programs  
<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/dsa/>

Loans, scholarships, and loan repayment programs for students in the health professions.

U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. Health Workforce Information Center (HWIC)  
<http://www.healthworkforceinfo.org/funding/>

Provides funding information for the healthcare workforce by type of funding (i.e., loan, scholarship, fellowships), by topic (i.e., mental health, school health, primary care), by profession (i.e., physicians, nursing occupations); includes federal, state, and foundation funding; and general financial aid and loan repayment guides for the healthcare workforce.

## **Aid for Law Students**

Law School Admission Council (LSAC). Financial Aid for Law School  
<http://www.lsac.org/jd/finance/financial-aid-overview.asp>

Covers federal and private loans, scholarships, and grants from individual law schools and private sources, and loan repayment options.

Schlachter, Gail Ann, and R. David Weber. *How to Pay for Your Law Degree, 2011-2013*. El Dorado Hills, CA: Reference Service Press, 2011.

Lists more than 650 fellowships, internships, loans and forgivable loans, writing and other competitions, grants, and bar exam stipends available specifically to law students to support their study, training, research, and creative activities. All areas of law are covered, from administrative law to trusts and estates, and nearly 50 specialties. The book is organized by type of funding (e.g., fellowships, internships). Each program description includes the program's purpose, eligibility, monetary award, duration, special features, limitations, number awarded, and deadline date. Complete contact information is provided (e.g., address, telephone number, fax number, toll-free number, e-mail address, and website). Additionally, the index can be searched for funding opportunities by program title, sponsoring organization, residency requirements, where the money can be spent, legal specialty, and deadline.

## Other Aid

AFL-CIO. College Education Resources  
<http://www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/>

Describes scholarships available from national and international unions, state labor federations, central labor councils, and local unions.

Schlachter, Gail Ann, and R. David Weber. *How to Pay for Your Degree in Business & Related Fields, 2011-2013*. El Dorado Hills, CA: Reference Service Press, 2010.

Lists 976 scholarships, fellowships, grants, and awards (with offers of assistance that are \$1,000 or more) established specifically for students working on a two-year, four-year, master's, or doctoral degree in a business-related field. Each program description includes the program's purpose, eligibility, monetary award, duration, special features, limitations, number awarded, and deadline date. The book is organized by type of funding (scholarships, grants, awards, etc.), recipient group (undergraduate or graduate students), program title, sponsoring organization, where an individual lives, where an individual wants to go to school or conduct their research, business specialty, and deadline date.

Schlachter, Gail Ann, and R. David Weber. *How to Pay for Your Degree in Education & Related Fields, 2010-2013*. El Dorado Hills, CA: Reference Service Press, 2010.

Lists more than 930 grants, scholarships, fellowships, loans, and awards available (with offers of assistance that are \$1,000 or more) to students working on an education-related degree. The book is organized alphabetically by program title for undergraduates and graduate students. Each program description includes the program's purpose, eligibility, monetary award, duration, special features, limitations, number awarded, and deadline date. Complete contact information is provided (e.g., address, telephone number, fax number, toll-free number, e-mail address, and website). Additionally, the index can be searched for funding by type of funding (scholarships, grants, awards, etc.), program title, sponsoring organization, where an individual lives, where an individual wants to go to school or conduct their research, education specialty, and deadline date.

Schlachter, Gail Ann, and R. David Weber. *How to Pay for Your Degree in Engineering, 2009-2011*. El Dorado Hills, CA: Reference Service Press, 2009.

The book is organized alphabetically by program title for undergraduates and graduate students. Each program description includes the program's purpose, eligibility, monetary award, duration, special features, limitations, number awarded, and deadline date. Complete contact information is provided (e.g., address, telephone number, fax number, toll-free number, e-mail address, and website). Additionally, the index can be searched for funding opportunities by sponsoring organization, residency requirements, where the money can be spent, engineering specialty, and deadline date.

## Additional Overviews When Applying for Federal Student Aid

### SHOULD I PAY SOMEONE TO HELP ME FIND OR APPLY FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL AID?

The quick answer is: Free help is available, whether you're looking for sources of student aid or completing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA). Excellent resources include: your high school guidance office, teachers and peers, Congresswoman Slaughter's office, the college Financial Aid office and more. If there's a fee involved, be sure you know what you're paying for.

### WHERE CAN I GET FREE INFORMATION ABOUT STUDENT AID?

The following sources usually have information about aid from the federal government and your state government; most can tell you about funds from your local community and private sources as well.

- **A college or career school financial aid office.** Talk to the financial aid administrator at the school you plan to attend. Be sure to ask about "institutional aid" - money the school itself awards students. The school's catalog or web site is also a good source of information about aid available at the school.
- **A local or college library.** Relevant materials are usually listed under "student aid" or "financial aid." If you need help, ask the reference librarian.
- **The Internet.** Search using the key words "student aid" or "financial aid." Remember that many scams operate over the Internet, so if an Internet service charges a fee, research it carefully. Better yet, use one of the many free Internet search services or aid information sites.
- **A high school counselor's office.** Many counselors have a large selection of materials, know what recent graduates have received, and can guide you to free online information.

### WHAT IF I WANT MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT FEDERAL STUDENT AID?

The major source of student financial aid is the U.S. Department of Education. About 70% of the student aid that is awarded each year comes from the U.S. Department of Education's programs. The Department's aid includes grants, loans, and work-study.

Free materials available in the financial aid office at your college or career school or the guidance office at your high school include the FAFSA as well as *The Student Guide* and *Funding Your Education* (two booklets that provide detailed information about the U.S. Department of Education's programs). You also may request copies of the FAFSA or either of the two booklets by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC) toll free at the number shown below. Additionally, Congresswoman Slaughter's District Offices have copies of many federal financial aid resources – please call her local office near you and speak with her education aide.

The FSAIC's operators can answer your questions about federal student aid and the application process.



**Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC):**  
**800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243)**  
**(TTY 800-730-8913)**

Most federal student aid is awarded based on financial need rather than scholastic achievement. For instance, most grants are targeted to low-income students. However, you do not have to show financial need to receive certain federal student loans.

You may apply for federal student aid at no cost by filing a paper FAFSA or applying electronically with *FAFSA on the Web*, the online application for federal student aid. All you need for *FAFSA on the Web* is a computer that supports a Department-approved browser. *FAFSA on the Web* is at [www.fafsa.ed.gov/](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/).

### **Who Offers Free Help Completing My FAFSA?**

Some private companies charge a fee to help you complete the FAFSA. You can get free help from the FSAIC. You can also get free help from the financial aid administrator at your college, from *FAFSA on the Web's* online help, or from a U.S. Department of Education online guide called *Completing the FAFSA* at <http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/completefafsa>

You may visit the Department of Education's federal student aid web site to view Department publications online or to learn more about the Department's programs: <http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/>

### **What About Aid from Other Government Agencies?**

Student aid is also available from other federal agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. For links to such information, visit <http://www.students.gov/>

## **WHO CAN GIVE ME DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT STATE STUDENT AID?**

Contact your state education agency, the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation. You may also call your NYS Senator or Assembly member.

## **WHO ELSE AWARDS AID TO STUDENTS?**

Student aid may also be available from foundations, community organizations, and organizations related to your field of interest (for example, the American Medical Association or American Bar Association). Contact the organizations directly for detailed information. Check with your parents' employers to see whether they award scholarships or have tuition payment plans. Although funds from these sources make up a small percentage of the total aid awarded each year, it's worth doing the research - you never know what you might find.

### **CHECKLIST OF FREE SOURCES OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION**

- ✓ the financial aid office at your college or career school
- ✓ a high school counselor
- ✓ the U.S. Department of Education
- ✓ other federal agencies (including the military, if appropriate)
- ✓ your state education agency
- ✓ the reference section of your school or public library
- ✓ the Internet
- ✓ foundations, religious organizations, community organizations, local businesses, and civic groups
- ✓ organizations (including professional associations) related to your field of interest
- ✓ ethnicity-based organizations
- ✓ your employer or your parents' employers
- ✓ free scholarship search services

**Check with all of these sources before considering paying for a scholarship search or other financial aid service.**

## WHAT IF I'M STILL CURIOUS ABOUT SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH SERVICES?

A number of privately operated scholarship search services charge fees that can range from \$50 to well over \$500. It is important to understand what information scholarship search services can provide. Some can be helpful in identifying sources of aid for students who meet certain criteria, such as academic achievement, religious affiliation, ethnic or racial heritage, artistic talents, athletic ability, career plans, or proposed field of study. *However, bear in mind that funds from these sources are usually limited and not all applicants will receive awards.*

Listed below are some of the services you might reasonably expect from a private scholarship search service.

- Most scholarship search services provide a list of sources of financial assistance you may apply for. After studying the list, you then send a separate application to each source that interests you. The scholarship search service does not apply on your behalf or pay any additional application fees that may be required.
- Many search services offer to refund your fee if you do not receive any award. However, some services require you to provide a rejection letter from every source on the list to claim your refund. You should be aware that many scholarship sources do not routinely send rejection letters. Make sure you get the scholarship search service's refund policy in writing before paying any money.

### What Are Some Questionable Tactics I Should Watch Out For?

- **Some services will tell you that millions of dollars in student aid go unclaimed every year.** The large figures you may hear or read about usually represent an estimated national total of employee benefits or member benefits. Usually, such benefits are available only to the employees (and their families) of a specific company, or to the members of a specific union or other organization.
- **Some claim that you can't get the same information anywhere else.** Many services make you pay to get information you could have received for free from a college financial aid office, state education agency, local library, the U.S. Department of Education, or the Internet. Remember that you can find out about student aid without paying a fee to a search service.
- **Others request your credit card or bank account number to hold student financial aid for you.** Search services do not, in most cases, provide any awards directly to applicants, apply on behalf of applicants, or act as a disbursing agent for financial aid providers. You should never give out a credit card or bank account number unless you know the company or organization you are giving it to is legitimate.
- **Others try to get you to send them money by claiming that you are a finalist in a scholarship contest.** Most sources of financial aid have application deadlines and eligibility criteria; they do not, generally, operate like a sweepstakes.
- **Scholarship seminars frequently end with one-on-one meetings in which a salesperson pressures the student to "buy now or lose out on this opportunity."** Legitimate services don't use such pressure tactics.

Each year, the U.S. Department of Education receives numerous complaints from students and parents who did not receive the information they expected from a search service. The Department does not evaluate private scholarship search services. If you decide to use one of these services, you should check its reputation by contacting the Better Business Bureau (<http://www.bbb.com/>), a school guidance counselor, or a state attorney general's office. Additionally, investigate the organization yourself before making a commitment:

- Ask for names of three or four local families who have used its services recently.
- Ask how many students have used the service and how many of them received scholarships as a result.
- Find out about the service's refund policy.
- Get everything in writing.
- Read all the fine print before signing anything.

The Scholarship Fraud Prevention Act created a fraud-awareness partnership between the U.S. Department of Education and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). For more information about scholarship scams or to report a scam, call the FTC toll free at 877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357) or go to <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/edcams/scholarship/>

**CAN YOU RUN THAT BY ME ONE MORE TIME?**

Most of the information private scholarship search services provide can be obtained for free elsewhere. Before you pay any company or organization to find student financial aid for you, make sure you know what you're getting for your money. Searching for student aid on your own can prevent you from wasting your money. You just need to know where to look.

To get information on student aid for college or career school:	800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243); TTY: 800-730-8913 <a href="http://www.students.gov/">http://www.students.gov/</a>
To get more information about scholarship scams:	877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357) <a href="http://www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams/">http://www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams/</a>
To report a scam:	877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357) or to fill out a <a href="#">complaint form on line</a>
To check on complaints against a company:	<a href="http://www.bbb.com/">http://www.bbb.com/</a>
To fill out the <i>Free Application for Federal Student Aid</i> (FAFSA):	<a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/">http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/</a>
To get help completing the FAFSA:	800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243); TTY: 800-730-8913 <a href="http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/completefafsa">www.studentaid.ed.gov/completefafsa</a>

# Student Aid Fraud, Scams and Identity Theft

## Save Your Money-Don't Pay for Help to Find Money for College

Commercial financial aid advice services can cost well over \$1,000. You might have heard or seen these claims at seminars, over the phone from telemarketers, or online:

- **"Buy now or miss this opportunity."** Don't give in to pressure tactics. Remember, the "opportunity" is a chance to pay for information you could find yourself for free. We've provided a list of free sources below.
- **"We guarantee you'll get aid."** A company could claim it fulfilled its promise if you were offered student loans or a \$200 scholarship. Is that worth a fee of \$1,000 or more?
- **"I've got aid for you; give me your credit card or bank account number."** Never give out a credit card or bank account number unless you know the organization you are giving it to is legitimate. You could be putting yourself at risk of identity theft. For tips on avoiding identity theft, see "Save Your Identity."

### Try These *Free* Sources of Information:

- the U.S. Department of Education's Web site: [www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov)
- the Federal Student Aid Information Center (see back of brochure)
- other federal agencies: [www.students.gov](http://www.students.gov)
- your state education agency
- a college or career school financial aid office
- a high school or TRIO counselor
- your library's reference section
- FREE online scholarship searches
- foundations, religious or community organizations, local businesses, or civic groups
- organizations (including professional associations) related to your field of interest
- ethnicity-based organizations
- your employer or your parents' employers

## Don't Pay for the FAFSA

Several Web sites offer help filing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) for a fee. These sites are not affiliated with or endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education. We urge you not to pay these sites for assistance that is provided free elsewhere. The official FAFSA is at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), and you can get free help from

- the financial aid administrator at your college;
- the FAFSA's online help at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov); and
- the Federal Student Aid Information Center

If you are asked for your credit card information while filling out the FAFSA online, you are not at the official government site. Remember, the FAFSA site address has **.gov** in it!

# Save Your Identity-Keep Your Information Safe

## How Does Identity Theft Happen?

Criminals gain access to personal data such as names, Social Security numbers, and bank and credit card information. Using the stolen data, the criminal can fraudulently obtain credit cards, establish cellular phone accounts, and more.

## Reduce Your Risk When Applying for Aid

- After completing the FAFSA online, exit the application and close the browser; any cookies created during your session will be deleted automatically.
- Don't tell anyone your Federal Student Aid PIN, even if that person is helping you fill out the FAFSA.
- Review your financial aid award documents and keep track of the amounts applied for and awarded.
- Never give personal information over the phone or Internet unless you made the contact. If you have questions about a solicitation or about your student loan account, call 1-800-4-FED-AID.
- Federal Student Aid securely stores your information on the National Student Loan Data System. However, if you complete or even request a student loan application from a lender, you may be granting the lender permission to access your file. Before providing personal information to an organization, review its privacy policy.
- Shred receipts and documents with personal information if they are no longer needed.
- Immediately report all lost or stolen identification to the issuer and to the police, if appropriate.

## Report Fraud and Identity Theft - Report Financial Aid Fraud

A company charging for financial aid advice is not committing fraud unless it doesn't deliver what it promises. For more information about financial aid fraud or to report fraud, call the Federal Trade Commission toll free at 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357) or go to [www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams](http://www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams).

## Report Identity Theft

If you suspect that your student information has been stolen, it is important to act quickly. These offices will help you determine what steps to take depending on your situation:

### U.S. Department of Education

Office of Inspector General Hotline

1-800-MIS-USED (1-800-647-8733)

Complain online: [www.ed.gov/misused](http://www.ed.gov/misused)

### Federal Trade Commission

1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338)

Complain online: [www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft)

Find this information at [www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/LSA](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/LSA)

# Repaying your Federal Student Loans

After you graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time enrollment, you have six or nine months before you begin repayment. You will receive information about repayment and will be notified by your loan provider of the date loan repayment begins. To access information about your federal student loan account, visit [www.myedaccount.com](http://www.myedaccount.com) or call the National Payment Center 1-800-621-3115. On myedaccount.com you can: manage your account, consolidate loans, make electronic payments and much more.

## Income-Based Repayment

Income-Based Repayment (IBR) is a repayment plan for the major types of federal student loans that caps your required monthly payment at an amount intended to be affordable based on your income and family size.

### **What are the benefits of IBR?**

PAY AS YOU EARN — Under IBR, your monthly payment amount will be less than the amount you would be required to pay under a 10-year standard repayment plan, and may be less than under other repayment plans. Although lower monthly payments may be of great benefit to a borrower, these lower payments may result in a longer repayment period and additional accrued interest.

INTEREST PAYMENT BENEFIT — If your monthly IBR payment amount does not cover the interest that accrues on your loans each month, the government will pay your unpaid accrued interest on your Subsidized Stafford Loans (either Direct Loan or FFEL) for up to three consecutive years from the date you began repaying your loans under IBR.

25-YEAR CANCELLATION — If you repay under the IBR plan for 25 years and meet certain other requirements, any remaining balance will be canceled.

10-YEAR PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS — If you work in public service, on-time, full monthly payments you make under IBR (or certain other repayment plans) while employed full-time in a public service job will count toward the 120 monthly payments that are required to receive loan forgiveness through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. Through this program, you may be eligible to have the remaining balance of your Direct Loans forgiven after you have made the 120 qualifying as described above. The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program is available only for Direct Loans. If you have FFEL loans, you may be eligible to consolidate them into the Direct Loan Program to take advantage of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. However, only the on-time, full monthly payments made under IBR or certain other repayment plans while you are a Direct Loan borrower will count toward the required 120 monthly payments

### **How is the IBR amount determined?**

Under IBR, the amount you are required to repay each month is based on your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and family size. If you are married and file a joint federal tax return with your spouse, your AGI includes both your income and your spouse's income. The annual IBR repayment amount is 15 percent of the difference between your AGI and 150 percent of the Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guideline for your family size and state. This amount is then divided by 12 to get the monthly IBR payment amount.

The following chart shows the maximum IBR monthly payment amounts for a sample range of incomes and family sizes using the Poverty Guidelines that were in effect as of January 20, 2011 for the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia.

IBR Monthly Payment Amount							
Annual Income	Family Size						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$20,000	\$46	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$25,000	\$108	\$37	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$30,000	\$171	\$99	\$28	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$35,000	\$233	\$162	\$90	\$18	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$40,000	\$296	\$224	\$153	\$81	\$9	\$0	\$0
\$45,000	\$358	\$287	\$215	\$143	\$72	\$0	\$0
\$50,000	\$421	\$349	\$278	\$206	\$134	\$63	\$0
\$55,000	\$483	\$412	\$340	\$268	\$197	\$125	\$54
\$60,000	\$546	\$474	\$403	\$331	\$259	\$188	\$116
\$65,000	\$608	\$537	\$465	\$393	\$322	\$250	\$179
\$70,000	\$671	\$599	\$528	\$456	\$384	\$313	\$241

The Obama Administration's "Pay as You Earn" plan will enable 1.6 million students to take advantage of a new option to cap student loan repayments at 10% of monthly income as soon as this year. Borrowers looking to determine whether or not income-based repayment is the right option for them should visit <http://studentaid.ed.gov/ibr>.

### How Do I Apply?

You must contact each of the servicers that service your loans to apply for IBR. If you are unsure who holds your loans or who your loan servicer is, you can access the U.S. Department of Education's National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) website at [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov) or call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243; TTY 1-800-730-8913).

## Borrower Grace Periods

After you graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time enrollment, you have a period of time before you have to begin repayment. This "grace period" will be

- **Six months** for a Federal Stafford Loan (Direct Loan Program<sup>SM</sup> or Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL<sup>SM</sup>) Program).
- **Nine months** for Federal Perkins Loans.

**PLUS Borrowers**—The repayment period for a Direct PLUS Loan begins at the time the PLUS loan is fully disbursed, and the first payment is due within 60 days after the final disbursement. However, a graduate student PLUS Loan borrower (as well as a parent PLUS borrower who is also a student) can defer repayment while the borrower is enrolled at least half-time, and, for PLUS loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2008, for an additional six months after the borrower is no longer enrolled at least half-time. Interest that accrues during these periods will be capitalized if not paid by the borrower during the deferment.

Parent PLUS Loan borrowers whose loans were first disbursed on or after July 1, 2008, may choose to have repayment deferred while the student for whom the parent borrowed is enrolled at least half-time and for an

additional six months after that student is no longer enrolled at least half-time. Interest that accrues during these periods will be capitalized if not paid by the parent during the deferment.

### Make Your Payments on Time

Your loan servicer will provide information about repayment and will notify you of the date loan repayment begins. It is very important that you make your *full* loan payment *on time* either monthly (which is usually when you'll pay) or according to your repayment schedule. If you don't, you could end up in default, which has serious consequences (see Default below). Student loans are *real* loans—just as real as car loans or mortgages. You have to pay back your student loans.

### Get Your Loan Information

The U.S. Department of Education's National Student Loan Data System<sup>SM</sup> (NSLDS<sup>SM</sup>) provides information on your federal loans including loan types, disbursed amounts, outstanding principal and interest, and the total amount of all your loans. To access NSLDS, go to [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov).

If you're not sure who your loan servicer is, you can look it up on [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov) or call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243; TTY 1-800-730-8913). To see a list of Federal Student Aid servicers for the Direct Loan Program and for FFEL Program Loans purchased by the U.S. Department of Education, go to the Loan Servicer page.

### Repayment Plans

You have a choice of several repayment plans that are designed to meet the different needs of individual borrowers. The amount you pay and the length of time to repay your loans will vary depending on the repayment plan you choose. Go to Repayment Plans and Calculators for more information about the various repayment plans and to calculate your estimated repayment amount under each of the different plans.

If you have specific questions about repaying FFEL, Direct, or Perkins Loans, contact your loan servicer. In the case of Perkins Loans, your servicer will be the school that made the loan. If you don't know who your loan servicer is, go to [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov) to find out.

## Loan Interest Rates

The following table provides interest rates for Direct and FFEL Program Loans.

Loan Type	Loan Interest Rates by Disbursement Dates		
	First Disbursed between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012 (Direct Loans Only)	First Disbursed between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2011	First Disbursed between July 1, 1998 and June 30, 2006
Direct and FFEL Subsidized Loans (Undergraduate Students)	Fixed at 3.4%	7/1/2006-6/30/2008: Fixed at 6.8%  7/1/2008-6/30/2009: Fixed at 6.0%  7/1/2009-6/30/2010: Fixed at 5.6%  7/1/2010-6/30/2011 Fixed at 4.5%	The interest rate is variable (adjusted annually on July 1st) and will not exceed 8.25%.  Between 7/1/2011 and 6/30/2012, loans in repayment or forbearance have an interest rate of 2.36%, and loans in an in-school, grace, or deferment period have a lower rate of 1.76%.

Direct and FFEL Subsidized Loans (Graduate Students)	<b>Fixed</b> at 6.8%	<b>Fixed</b> at 6.8%	
Direct and FFEL Unsubsidized Loans			
Direct PLUS Loans (Parent, Graduate and Professional Students)	<b>Fixed</b> at 7.9%	<b>Fixed</b> at 7.9%	The interest rate is variable (adjusted annually on July 1st) and will not exceed 9.0%.
FFEL PLUS Loans (Parent, Graduate and Professional Students)	Not Applicable	<b>Fixed</b> at 8.5%	Between 7/1/2011 and 6/30/2012, the interest rate is 3.16%.

### **Why does the amount of interest I pay vary from month to month?**

Interest accrues on a daily basis on your loans. Factors such as the number of days between your last payment, the interest rate, and the amount of your loan balance determine the amount of interest that accrues each month.

You can calculate the monthly interest on your loan by using the Simple Daily Interest Formula by visiting [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov).

### **Electronic Payment**

In some cases, you might be able to reduce your interest rate if you sign up for electronic debiting. To learn more, go to the Electronic Payment page on [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov).

### **Trouble Making Payments**

If you're having trouble making payments on your loans, contact your loan servicer as soon as possible. Your servicer will work with you to determine the best option for you. Options include:

- Changing repayment plans.
- Requesting a deferment—If you meet certain requirements, a deferment allows you to temporarily stop making payments on your loan.
- Requesting a forbearance—If you don't meet the eligibility requirements for a deferment but are temporarily unable to make your loan payments, then (in limited circumstances) a forbearance allows you to temporarily stop making payments on your loan, temporarily make smaller payments, or extend the time for making payments.

If you stop making payments and don't get a deferment or forbearance, your loan could go into default, which has serious consequences.

## **Default**

If you default, it means you failed to make payments on your student loan according to the terms of your promissory note, the binding legal document you signed at the time you took out your loan. In other words, you failed to make your loan payments as scheduled. Your school, the financial institution that made or owns your loan, your loan guarantor, and the federal government all can take action to recover the money you owe. Here are some consequences of default:

- National credit bureaus can be notified of your default, which will harm your credit rating, making it hard to buy a car or a house.
- You will be ineligible for additional federal student aid if you decide to return to school.
- Loan payments can be deducted from your paycheck.
- State and federal income tax refunds can be withheld and applied toward the amount you owe.
- You will have to pay late fees and collection costs on top of what you already owe
- You can be sued.

For student loans authorized under Section 435(i) Title IV of the Higher Education Act, default occurs on a Federal Family Educational Loan (FFEL) program loan after a default has persisted for 270 days in the case of a loan repayable in monthly installments or 330 days in the case of a loan repayable in less frequent installments. The change is effective for loans for which the first date of delinquency occurred on or after October 7, 1998. During the delinquency period, your loan holder must exercise "due diligence" in attempting to collect the loan; that is, your loan holder must make repeated efforts to locate and contact you about repayment. If your loan holder's efforts are unsuccessful, steps will be taken to place the loan in default and to turn the loan over to the guaranty agency in your state. Your loan holder may "accelerate" a defaulted loan, which means that the entire balance of the loan (principal and interest) becomes due in a single payment.

Once your loan is assigned to a guaranty agency or the U.S. Department of Education (Department) for collection, the following steps may be taken to recover the outstanding balance due:

- The Department of the Treasury may offset your federal and/or state tax refunds and any other payments, as authorized by law, to repay your defaulted loan.
- You may have to pay additional collection costs after your loan is assigned to a private collection agency for collection.
- Also, you may be subject to Administrative Wage Garnishment, whereby the Department will require your employer to forward 15% of your disposable pay toward repayment of your loan.
- Federal employees face the possibility of having 15% of their disposable pay offset by the Department toward repayment of their loan through Federal Salary Offset.
- The Department may take legal action to force you to repay the loan.
- Finally, credit bureaus may be notified, and your credit rating will suffer.

Once a loan is declared in default, you are no longer entitled to any deferments or forbearances. In addition, you may not receive any additional Title IV federal student aid if you are in default on any Title IV student loan until you have made payments of an approved amount for at least six consecutive months. For more information and to learn what actions to take if you default on your loans, see the Department of Education's Default Resolution Group Web site: <http://www2.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/DCS/index.html>

### **Loan Cancellation (Discharge)**

In certain circumstances, your loan can be cancelled/discharged. Read about cancellation provisions here: It's possible to have your student loan debt discharged (canceled) or reduced, but only under certain specific circumstances:

- You die or become totally and permanently disabled.
- Your school closed before you could complete your program.
- For FFEL<sup>SM</sup> and Direct Stafford Loans only: Your school owes your lender a refund, forged your signature on a promissory note, or certified your loan even though you didn't have the ability to benefit from the coursework.
- You work in certain designated public school service professions (including teaching in a low-income school).

- You file for bankruptcy. (This cancellation is rare and occurs only if a bankruptcy court rules that repayment would cause undue hardship.)

### **Cancellation and Deferment Options for Teachers**

If you're a teacher serving in a low-income or subject-matter shortage area, it may be possible for you to cancel or defer your student loans.

### **Loan Forgiveness for Public Service Employees**

Under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, if you are employed in a public service job, you may have the balance of your loans forgiven if you make 120 on-time monthly payments under certain repayment plans after October 1, 2007. You must be employed full-time in a public service job during the same period in which the qualifying payments are made and at the time that the cancellation is granted. The amount forgiven is the remaining outstanding balance of principal and accrued interest on eligible Direct Loans that are not in default. For additional details, go to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness page on this website: [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov).

### **Civil Legal Assistance Attorney Student Loan Repayment Program (CLAARP)**

The Civil Legal Assistance Attorney Student Loan Repayment Program was established to encourage qualified individuals to enter and continue employment as civil legal assistance attorneys.

### **Addressing Your Defaulted Student Loan**

If you default on your student loan, the maturity date of each promissory note is accelerated making payment in full immediately due, and you are no longer eligible for any type of deferment or forbearance. Continued failure to repay a loan in default may lead to several negative consequences for you over the long-term including but not limited to garnishment of your wages, offset of your federal and/or state income tax refunds and any other payments, as authorized by law, and losing your eligibility for other federal loans such as FHA or VA.

### **Facing Loan Default**

For student loans authorized under Section 435(i) Title IV of the Higher Education Act, default occurs on a Federal Family Educational Loan (FFEL) program loan after a default has persisted for 270 days in the case of a loan repayable in monthly installments or 330 days in the case of a loan repayable in less frequent installments. The change is effective for loans for which the first date of delinquency occurred on or after October 7, 1998. During the delinquency period, your loan holder must exercise "due diligence" in attempting to collect the loan; that is, your loan holder must make repeated efforts to locate and contact you about repayment. If your loan holder's efforts are unsuccessful, steps will be taken to place the loan in default and to turn the loan over to the guaranty agency in your state. Your loan holder may "accelerate" a defaulted loan, which means that the entire balance of the loan (principal and interest) becomes due in a single payment.

Once your loan is assigned to a guaranty agency or the U.S. Department of Education (Department) for collection, the following steps may be taken to recover the outstanding balance due:

- The Department of the Treasury may offset your federal and/or state tax refunds and any other payments, as authorized by law, to repay your defaulted loan.
- You may have to pay additional collection costs after your loan is assigned to a private collection agency for collection.
- Also, you may be subject to Administrative Wage Garnishment, whereby the Department will require your employer to forward 15% of your disposable pay toward repayment of your loan.
- Federal employees face the possibility of having 15% of their disposable pay offset by the Department toward repayment of their loan through Federal Salary Offset.
- The Department may take legal action to force you to repay the loan.
- Finally, credit bureaus may be notified, and your credit rating will suffer.

Once a loan is declared in default, you are no longer entitled to any deferments or forbearances. In addition, you may not receive any additional Title IV federal student aid if you are in default on any Title IV student loan until you have made payments of an approved amount for at least six consecutive months.

However, there are now more ways than ever before to repay your defaulted student loan and certain programs can even remove your loan from its defaulted status. Determining which repayment option that is right for you depends on what your objective is.

**"I want to pay my defaulted student loan in monthly payments that are affordable to me."**

- All guaranty agencies and the U.S. Department of Education (Department) will accept regular monthly payments that are both reasonable to the agency and affordable to you. You should call us at 1-800-621-3115 and one of our customer service representatives will assist you with determining a repayment amount that is right for you.

**"I want to reestablish my eligibility for additional federal student aid and go back to school."**

Basically, your options are:

1. Repay or satisfy the loan in full.
2. Make six agreed-upon monthly payments over a six month period. Your payment amount must be approved in advance by the Department. Every qualifying payment must be timely (received before the due date) and you cannot make all six payments as a single lump sum payment. Once your eligibility to receive additional federal financial aid has been restored after making six consecutive monthly payments, you must continue to make timely monthly payments to maintain your eligibility or else it will be permanently lost until the debt is resolved entirely. In other words, you may qualify for this program only once.
3. Consolidate your loan through the FFEL loan consolidation program or the William D. Ford Direct Loan Program.
4. Rehabilitate your loan through the loan rehabilitation program.

Since defaulted student loans have no statute of limitations for enforceability, you would remain ineligible for additional federal financial aid until you complete one of the options mentioned above.

**"I'm applying for a HUD (FHA) or VA loan and I don't qualify because of my defaulted student loan."**

- Your options for reinstating your eligibility to receive a HUD (FHA) or VA loan are: repay or satisfy the loan in full; consolidate your loan through the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) loan consolidation program or the William D. Ford Direct Loan Program (Direct Loan Program); or rehabilitate your loan through our loan rehabilitation program. Since defaulted student loans have no statute of limitations for enforceability, you would remain ineligible to receive a HUD or VA loan until you complete one of the options mentioned above.

**"My credit record is tarnished because of my defaulted student loan. Is there anything that I can do to improve my credit record?"**

Failure to repay your defaulted student loan can be damaging to your credit record. In fact, consumer reporting agencies may continue to report an account for 7 years from the opening date. However, there are several things that you can do to at least partially, and in some cases, fully restore your credit record. Your options for bettering your credit report include: repay or satisfy the loan in full; consolidate your loan through the FFEL loan consolidation program or the William D. Ford Direct Loan Program; or rehabilitate your loan through our loan rehabilitation program.

If you want the negative credit report made by the Department removed, you must successfully complete our loan rehabilitation program.

## Loan Rehabilitation

You may want to consider rehabilitating your defaulted loan(s). Advantages of rehabilitation include:

- Your loan(s) will no longer be considered to be in a default status.
- The default status reported by your loan holder to the national credit bureaus will be deleted.
- You will be eligible for the same benefits that were available on the loans before the loans defaulted. This may include deferment, forbearance, and Title IV eligibility.
- Wage garnishment ends and the Internal Revenue Service no longer withholds your income tax refund.

If you are a **Direct Loan** Borrower:

To rehabilitate a Direct Loan, you must make at least nine (9) full payments of an agreed amount within twenty (20) days of their monthly due dates over a ten (10) month period to the U.S. Department of Education (Department). Payments secured from you on an involuntary basis, such as through wage garnishment or litigation, cannot be counted toward your nine (9) payments. Once you have made the required payments, your loan(s) will be returned to the Direct Loan Servicing Center.

If you are a **FFEL loan** borrower:

To rehabilitate a FFEL, you must make at least nine (9) full payments of an agreed amount within twenty (20) days of their monthly due dates over a ten (10) month period to the Department. Payments secured from you on an involuntary basis, such as through wage garnishment or litigation, cannot be counted toward your nine (9) payments. Once you have made the required payments, your loan(s) may be purchased by an eligible lending institution.

If you are a **Perkins loan** borrower:

To rehabilitate a Perkins Loan, you must make nine (9) on-time, monthly payments of an agreed amount to the Department. Payments secured from you on an involuntary basis, such as through wage garnishment or litigation, cannot be counted toward your nine (9) payments. Once you have made the required payments, your loan(s) will continue to be serviced by the Department until the balance owed is paid in full.

## Loan Consolidation

A Direct Consolidation Loan allows a borrower to consolidate (combine) multiple federal student loans into one loan. The result is a single monthly payment instead of multiple monthly payments.

Make sure to carefully consider whether loan consolidation is the best option for you. While loan consolidation can simplify loan repayment and lower your monthly payment, it also can significantly increase the total cost of repaying your loans. Consolidation offers lower monthly payments by giving you up to 30 years to repay your loans. But, if you increase the length of your repayment period, you'll also make more payments and pay more in interest than you would otherwise. In fact, in some situations, consolidation can double your total interest expense. If you don't need monthly payment relief, you should compare the cost of repaying your unconsolidated loans against the cost of repaying a consolidation loan.

You also should take into account the impact of losing any borrower benefits offered under repayment plans for the original loans. Borrower benefits from your original loan, which may include interest rate discounts, principal rebates, or some loan cancellation benefits, can significantly reduce the cost of repaying your loans. You may lose those benefits if you consolidate.

Once your loans are combined into a Direct Consolidation Loan, they cannot be removed. That's because the loans that were consolidated have been paid off and no longer exist. Take the time to study the pros and cons of consolidation before you submit your application.

For additional information, you can view the **Checklist Tool for Consolidation** on [studentaid.ed.gov](http://studentaid.ed.gov) or visit [www.loanconsolidation.ed.gov](http://www.loanconsolidation.ed.gov).

### **What kinds of loans can be consolidated?**

Most federal student loans are eligible for consolidation, including subsidized and unsubsidized Direct and FFEL Stafford Loans, Direct and FFEL PLUS Loans, Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS), Federal Perkins Loans, Federal Nursing Loans, Health Education Assistance Loans, and some existing consolidation loans. Private education loans are not eligible for consolidation. If you are in default, you must meet certain requirements before you can consolidate your loans.

Note: A PLUS Loan made to the parent of a dependent student cannot be transferred to the student. Therefore, a student who is applying for loan consolidation cannot include his or her parent's PLUS Loan.

For a complete list of the federal student loans that can be consolidated, contact the Direct Loan Origination Center's Consolidation Department by calling 1-800-557-7392 or visit [www.loanconsolidation.ed.gov](http://www.loanconsolidation.ed.gov). TTY users may call 1-800-557-7395.

### **When can I consolidate my loans?**

Generally, you are eligible to consolidate after you graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time enrollment.

### **What are the requirements to consolidate a loan?**

To qualify for a Direct Consolidation Loan:

- You must have at least one Direct Loan or Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) that is in grace or repayment.
- You can consolidate most defaulted education loans if you make satisfactory repayment arrangements with the current loan servicer(s) or agree to repay your new Direct Consolidation Loan under the Income Contingent Repayment Plan or the Income Based Repayment Plan.
- If you have a Direct Consolidation Loan, you cannot consolidate again unless you include an additional FFEL or Direct Loan. If you have a FFEL Consolidation Loan you also may be able to consolidate again under certain circumstances. For additional details, go to [www.loanconsolidation.ed.gov](http://www.loanconsolidation.ed.gov).

If you consolidate your loans, you do not need to pay any application fees and you will not be charged any prepayment penalties.

### **What is the interest rate?**

A Direct Consolidation Loan has a fixed interest rate for the life of the loan. The fixed rate is based on the weighted average of the interest rates on the loans being consolidated, rounded up to the nearest one-eighth of 1% and cannot exceed 8.25%.

### **How do I apply for a Direct Consolidation Loan?**

There are several ways that you can apply for a Direct Consolidation Loan:

- Apply online at [www.loanconsolidation.ed.gov](http://www.loanconsolidation.ed.gov)
- Download a paper copy of the application and promissory note at [www.loanconsolidation.ed.gov](http://www.loanconsolidation.ed.gov)
- Apply over the phone if you have all Direct Loans – 1-800-557-7392
- Request an application package be mailed to you by:
  - Calling 1-800-557-7392 (TDD 1-800-557-7395) or 334-206-7400 (outside the USA)
  - E-mailing [consolidation@mail.ed.gov](mailto:consolidation@mail.ed.gov)

### **When do I begin repayment?**

Repayment of a Direct Consolidation Loan begins immediately upon disbursement of the loan. (Your first payment will be due within 60 days.) The payback term ranges from 10 to 30 years, depending on the amount of education debt being repaid and the repayment plan you select. Direct Consolidation Loans that include parent PLUS loans are not eligible for the Income-Based Repayment Plan. For additional details on repayment plans available for Direct Consolidation Loans, go to the Loan Consolidation Web site or check with your loan servicer [loanconsolidation.ed.gov](http://loanconsolidation.ed.gov)

**Repayment Plans**—There are several repayment plans that are designed to meet the different needs of individual borrowers. You will receive more detailed information on your repayment options when you consolidate your loan. To learn more about repayment plans, go to the Repayment Information page on [studentaid.ed.gov](http://studentaid.ed.gov).

**What if I have trouble repaying the loan?**

Under certain circumstances, you can receive a deferment or forbearance that allows you to temporarily stop or lower the payments on your loan. For more information, go to the Repayment Information page on [studentaid.ed.gov](http://studentaid.ed.gov).

# Service Academy Appointments

Each Academy has a long tradition of rich service to the defense of our nation, and Congresswoman Slaughter is proud to be able to participate in the process of candidate selection.

Admission to one of our nation's military academies, the **U.S. Naval Academy**, the **U.S. Military Academy**, the **U.S. Air Force Academy**, or the **U.S. Merchant Marine Academy** is highly competitive. Individuals nominated from the 28<sup>th</sup> Congressional District must meet the high standards set by the academy. While it is a difficult process, the rewards for those individuals that qualify are great.

Each candidate will meet with Congresswoman Slaughter's Academy Selection Committee members. The committee will conduct personal interviews with applicants in her district office in Rochester during the month of December. Information on the exact time is provided in November.

The method for selecting nominees is competitive. With this method, Congresswoman Slaughter can submit up to ten nominees for each vacancy. The candidates are then ranked by each academy's admissions office in order of merit in accordance with the specific academy's system. The most highly qualified candidate is then selected for an offer of admission (an appointment) to fill the vacancy.

## Nomination Procedure:

To begin your academy nomination application file, please complete the application form and return it to our Rochester office. In order to complete your file in time for consideration, you will need to submit the following items by **mid-October of a student's senior year**.

**Application for Nomination can be found:** <http://www.louise.house.gov/images/stories/application.pdf>

– www.louise.house.gov – “Serving You” – “Student Opportunities” –

### Additional Information:

- Copy of your high school grade transcript, including the first term of grade 12, when available
- List of extra-curricular activities; employment
- Copy of your SAT and/or ACT score reports. These scores must be in your file in order for you to be considered for a nomination.
- Two letters of recommendation. One of these must be from a principal, dean or teacher or guidance counselor at your high school or college.

After personal interviews, all applicants will receive notification of whether they have been selected for a nomination no later than January 31. Nominees will learn directly from the academies if they have been awarded appointments.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeffrey Rodgers at 585-232-4850 or by e-mail at [jeffrey.rodgers@mail.house.gov](mailto:jeffrey.rodgers@mail.house.gov)

## Contact Congresswoman Slaughter

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